TIMES-VIRGINIAN

JOB WORK A SPECIALTY — DEVOTED TO THE LOCAL AND INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS OF APPOMATTOX AND BUCKINGHAM COUNTIES. — JOB WORK A SPECIALTY

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SCHWAB GIVEN CLEAN BILL

Voucher Charge Not Proved and Not True

ACCUSATION IS DEPLORED

Grateful, Says Schwab—"Best News I Have Heard," He Declares On Hearing Of Action Taken.

Washington.—With the approval of Chairman Walsh members of the House committee investigating the Shipping Board declared in a statement that they "were satisfied" after hearing all the evidence and examining the documents that the charge that Charles M. Schwab received money from the Government for his personal expenses while serving as wartime director of the Emergency Fleet Corporation "was not proven and further that it was not true."

The statement was issued by Representative Steele, Democrat, Pennsylvania, after discussion with the other members who heard the testimony in New York and Washington relating to the $250,000 voucher. Its issuance in advance of the full report of the committee on the results of its investigation was unusual, but members explained that it had been decided to break away from long-established rules on the grounds of fairness to one unjustly accused.

When the final report on the whole inquiry is submitted to Congress it was said the committee would reiterate in more formal form its belief that the charge was without justification.

Mr. Steele's statement was issued after it had been read by Chairman Walsh, who announced that he had no objection whatever to its publication.

It was explained by Mr. Steele that there might have been some impropriety in an utterance of this kind from the chairman of an investigating committee in advance of an official finding, but that there was urgent demand for an expression at this time, in view of Mr. Schwab's public service.

"Committee members were convinced by the testimony," said Representative Connally, Democrat, Texas, who, with Chairman Walsh and Representatives Steele and Foster, heard it, "that Mr. Schwab did not receive a dollar from the United States Shipping Board as compensation or as expenses while serving as Director-General of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, and that no part of the $250,000 voucher of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation was paid by the Shipping Board or the Emergency Fleet Corporation as a part of the cost of ships built for the United States, as intimated."

The committee will continue its general hearings here next week, but it was said the voucher incident certainly, so far as it related to Mr. Schwab, had been closed.

Mr. Schwab Grateful.

New York.—"I am indeed grateful," Charles M. Schwab, steel magnate, announced when he learned that the Walsh committee had issued a statement in Washington clearing him of charges of receiving payment from the Government for expenses while serving as Director-General of the Emergency Fleet Corporation.

"It is the best news I have ever heard," he said, his voice shaking with emotion.

"I appreciate beyond words the action of the Walsh committee in so strongly exonerating me from the unfounded charge that has been so widely circulated," Mr. Schwab added. "I am deeply grateful to the committee for the thoroughness and fairness with which it took up the investigation of the charge the moment it was made."

DEBTS NOW $300,621,609,000.

Total Before World War $43,889,000,000, Expert Figures.

New York.—O. P. Austin, of the National City Bank, declares that the national debts of the nations now amount to the staggering sum of $300,621,609,000. The paper currency of the nation, including Russia, now amounts to $82,791,000,000, according to the same authority.

In 1914, before the World War, the national debts amounted to $43,889,000,000 and the paper currency totaled only $7,527,000,000.

The issue of paper currency by the soviet government of Russia is estimated at $34,000,000,000.

The financial authority Cadmus asserts that only 5 per cent. of gold is behind the paper money of Europe.

NO GIGGLING GIRLS ON JURY.

Atlantic City Judge Also Bars Powder And Rouge.

Atlantic City.—Giggling girls who powder and rouge have been barred from jury duty by Judge Louis Repetto of the District Court here. Instructions to his bailiff posted in the court room set down that women juries shall contain:

"No busy wives of workingmen.

"No mothers of small children.

"No admixture of men.

"No immature women who giggle, rouge and powder but do not think."

WILSON USES PEN AND INK.

President Signs Message; Has Been Using Pencil.

Washington. — Congress received from President Wilson Tuesday the first message signed with pen and ink since the President was taken ill a year and a half ago. The message had to do with changes in customs districts. Since his illness and up to this time the President had used an indelible pencil in signing communications to Congress.

DECLARES LEGAL ADVICE INCORRECT.

Washington.—Here is the Senate resolution referring to "incorrect legal advice," being cause of mixup in delivery of Maryland's electoral vote:

Whereas certain of the messengers appointed by the electors of certain states failed through incorrect legal advice to deliver to the President of the Senate the certified copy of the electoral vote of such states for president and vice-president:

Resolved, That messengers who failed to appear should be relieved and discharged from the $1,000 fine for such neglect imposed, and that the President of the Senate be directed to authorize the payment of such messengers as appeared before January 31, 1921.

ALLIES REJECT WILSON'S PLAN

Recognition of Latvia and Esthonia Denial of His Policy

FEARS OF ADMINISTRATION

Experts To Decide Reparations Issue —Premier Briand Says This Will Be Decision Day Of Conference.

Washington.—The Allied Supreme Council's decision to recognize the Baltic republics of Esthonia and Latvia was viewed by some officials of the State Department as direct opposition to President Wilson's stand for the preservation of the territorial integrity of Russia.

The action was pronounced at variance with the President's recent note to Paul Hymans, president of the League of Nations Assembly, urging the powers to enter into a "solemn engagement" not to "take advantage of Russia's stricken condition."

In Secretary Colby's Russian note last year the President specifically condemned the separation of Latvia and Esthonia as a violation of Russian territorial integrity, for which reason he had withheld American recognition of the two republics, much to the chagrin of sundry champions of his principle of self-determination.

It is feared that the action of the Supreme Council foreshadows a break between the President and the Allied powers on the Russian question and indicates that his arguments, particularly in the recent note, have met with a cool reception. They are prepared for a reply little short of a rebuff."

CASH IN U. S. TREASURY.

The Total Is About 10 Million Greater Than Usual.

Washington.—Acting Treasurer Allen announced that a total of $13,833,819,826.36 2-3 in cash and securities was found in the Treasury as a result of the count necessitated by the resignation of John Burke as Treasurer.

This total is about $10,000,000 greater than usual, and is accounted for by approximately that amount of notes deposited by foreign Governments for war loans.

The actual cash on hand at the time of the count was $97,410,283.02. The remainder is in paper currency held in reserve, in complete currency certificates, incomplete gold certificates and bonds and other securities held in trust.

The 1913 Count.

The last previous count in 1913 showed a grand total of $1,426,422,051.48 2-3, of which the total cash amounted to $1,199,331,911.90.

The present count showed $4,726,553.11 in gold coin and $45,790,572 in standard silver dollars, compared with gold coin of $2,505,722.98 and standard silver dollars totaling $158,896,689 in 1913.

TO ASK REDUCTION OF WAGES.

Railroads To Seek Authority For Cut From Labor Wage Board.

Chicago.—A concerted movement by leading railroads to reduce wages of employes is under way. Authority for the wage reductions will be asked of the United States Railway Labor Wage Board within the next 30 days, it was learned from a reliable source.

The first move toward combined action on the part of the leading railway systems will be discussed here when members of the labor committee of the American Association of Railway Executives will assemble. This committee will discuss the amount of the reductions to be asked.

TO MOVE GIFT WHEAT.

Farmers Donate 50,000,000 Bushels To Foreign Starving.

Cleveland, Ohio.—Engine and train crews to move 50,000,000 bushels of wheat to be donated by Western farmers was offered by the chief executives of the big railroad brotherhoods, without charge for the men's labor, to Herbert Hoover, in charge of relieving starvation among the hungry millions of Europe and China.

PIGEONS SACRED IN INDIA.

When Boys Kill Them Bombay Natives Make Trouble.

Bombay, India.—The Stock Exchange and bullion and cotton markets reopened Tuesday. They were closed the previous day and a general religious strike was threatened because of the serious situation which arose over the killing of pigeons by European boys—pigeons being considered sacred by the natives—and disorders which followed this incident.

3,473,466 LOST JOBS LAST YEAR

Government Report Shows Nearly 40 Per Cent Reduction

NEW YORK STATE LEADS

Auto Workers Suffer Most—Michigan's Proportional Reduction, 82 Per Cent. Greatest Among States Enumerated.

Washington.—The number of persons employed in industry in this country on the first day of this month was 3,473,466 less than the number employed a year ago, the Department of Labor's employment service announced on the basis of a first nation-wide survey just completed by a special staff of investigators.

Director John B. Densmore said this figure did not necessarily represent the number of persons actually idle, as it was "quite possible" that some of the workers had found employment in agricultural or other pursuits not covered by the survey.

On the other hand, some officials believe the army of unemployed possibly was larger than the figures given, as no effort was being made to ascertain the reduction in the number of persons employed in pursuits other than those classed under the head of "mechanical industry."

The employment service's figures represented a reduction of 36.9 per cent. in the number of workers employed in industry as compared with January of last year.

Michigan led the states in proportional reduction, with 82 per cent., and Ohio and Indiana followed, with a reduction in employment of 50 per cent. each. Next came Illinois, with 44 per cent.; Connecticut, with 43 per cent.; Massachusetts, with 38 per cent.; Wisconsin, 32 per cent.; New York, 28 per cent., and New Jersey, 22 per cent. Percentages for the other states were not given.

The largest percentage of reduction in specific industries, 69 per cent., occurred in the automobile and accessory industry, and this was taken to account largely for the great reduction in employment in Michigan. This industry, the employment service announcement said, employed about 8 per cent. of the total workers in all industry in the country a year ago.

Second in rank in the reduction was the building trades, with approximately 52 per cent. Last January about 11 per cent. of the total industrial workers was employed in this industry.

A reduction of 35.5 per cent. was noted in the textile and related industries, 35 per cent. in leather and its products and 32 per cent. in lumber and house furniture.

Surveys made in 182 cities, the employment service said, showed that numerically the greatest reduction was in New York City, where 234,243 were reported discharged. Chicago had a reduction of 86,000; Philadelphia, 70,000; Detroit, 160,000; Cleveland, 81,000; Boston, 25,000; Newark, 41,000; Cincinnati, 24,000; Milwaukee, 24,330; St. Louis, 49,350; Baltimore, 39,565; Kansas City, 20,640; Pittsburgh, 12,500; San Francisco, 13,000; Portland, Ore., 10,000; Wilmington, Del., 9,026, and Washington, 8,613.

The reduction in the New England industrial centers, including Boston, totaled 250,156. New Bedford led with 30,000 and Fall River was next with 25,000.

FARM YIELDS REACH HIGH VALUE

Estimated Crops Were Worth $19,856,000,000, Say Experts.

Washington.—American farm products for 1920 are valued at $19,856,000,000, the Bureau of Crop Estimates announced. This is $5,105,000,000 less than the preceding year.

Among declines noted were: Corn, $1,662,000,000; cotton lint and seed, $1,300,000,000; wheat, $854,000,000; tobacco, $248,000,000.

Ten crops gained value, such as oranges, $32,000,000; sugar beets, $24,000,000; cabbage and cowpeas.

Animal values dropped only $237,000,000, the report said.

The cattle and calves decline was $223,000,000; swine, $427,000,000, but dairy products gained $311,000,000, and poultry and eggs, $160,000,000.

NO MONEY, TOOK BABY.

Bandits Give Child Back When Mother Produces $15.

Chicago.—Telling them that she had no money, two automobile bandits snatched a baby from a mother's arms and started to flee with it. Their kidnapping exploit was abandoned only when the frantic woman gave up $15 which she had concealed from the robbers.

BANDITS GET $30,000.

Hold Up Jewelry Store In Toledo, Ohio; Escape In Auto.

Toledo, Ohio.—Four bandits entered the Daniels jewelry store here, bound the proprietor and customers hand and foot and escaped in an automobile with jewelry valued at more than $30,000.

TO DISCUSS U. S. PLAN.

Supreme Council Will Take Up League Of Nations Scheme.

Paris.—The official program of the Supreme Council, now meeting here, includes discussion of the American scheme for a League of Nations, the newspaper L'Intransigeant, said.

This probably refers to various reported plans of President-elect Harding for associations of nations.

70,000 BABIES, 10,000 MOTHERS DIE YEARLY.

New York.—Seventy thousand babies and 10,000 mothers died from childbirth in the United States last year for want of nursing, Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, member of the Advisory Council of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing, declared in a statement here.

In New York city the rate for infants born dead was 24 for every thousand among those who had prenatal care, while the rate was 45 where such care was lacking, she said, adding that the "same sort of thing is indicated by figures from Boston."

U. S. LEADS IN SHIP BUILDING

Launched 2,476,000 Gross Tons in 1920 Out of 5,861,000 Total

GREAT BRITAIN WAS SECOND

Two Countries Started Even At Beginning Of Year, But America Exceeded In Speed.

New York.—The United States led the world in the total of gross tons of merchant vessels launched in 1920, according to figures just made public by Lloyds Register of Shipping.

The total launchings in shipyards of the world amounted to 5,861,000 gross tons, a decrease of almost 1,300,000 from the 1919 figure, but an increase of more than 400,000 over 1918. The total for the United States was 2,476,000 tons, while Great Britain was second, with 2,055,000 tons, Japan launched 456,000 tons last year, a decrease from 611,000 tons in 1919.

Lloyds points out that at the beginning of 1920 the United States and Great Britain had on hand practically the same amount of construction to be completed, and credits American yards with greater speed than those in Great Britain, in that this country exceeded England's total by 20 per cent.

The decline in the total world tonnage launched was attributed to the decline in the American ship building program, America's launchings being 1,600,000 tons less than in the previous year. British production showed a gain of more than 400,000 tons.

In comparison with prewar figures the launchings in the United States were nine times as great as in 1913, and throughout the world there was a gain of about 75 per cent. For the first time since the beginning of the war Great Britain last year exceeded its 1913 figure, the gain being about 7 per cent.

UNCLE SAM'S BACK TAXES.

More Than $407,000,000 Collected During 1920.

Washington.—More than $407,000,000 in back taxes was collected by the Government during 1920, internal revenue officials said, adding the prediction that an even larger sum probably would be recovered in the present year.

Commissioner of Internal Revenue Williams said that back taxes were being collected at the rate of $35,000,000 a month as a result of filed and office audits of 1917 and 1918 income and profits tax returns.

Audit of the 1917 returns will probably be completed by March 1, the Commissioner said, and work on the 1918 returns is already under way.

Back taxes collected by the Government, officials explained, include penalties for delinquencies and evasions as well as additional amounts in taxes discovered to be due. What the 1918 and 1919 returns may reveal officials were unable to estimate, but it was thought that the $25,000,000 a month figure would be exceeded this year.

"MRS. HARDING BLUE."

New Fashionable Color Announced For Spring.

New York.—Mrs. Harding blue now takes its place as a fashionable shade along with Alice Roosevelt blue, Cleveland yellow, McKinley blue, Taft pink, and other celebrated hues.

A firm here announced it had Mrs. Harding's permission to present the new color in dress goods for spring.

In nearly every administration a member of the President's family has manifested a leaning toward some color, which is thereupon given the President's name.

FIVE SOLDIERS' HOSPITALS.

Bill Appropriating $13,000,000 Reported In House.

Washington.—A bill appropriating $13,000,000 for hospitals for soldiers was reported by the House Buildings Committee. It provides for the erection of five regional hospitals at a cost of $2,500,000 each and $500,000 for improvement of hospitals at Walla Walla, Wash., and Fort McKenzie, Wyo.

BILL TO PAY ROADS FAVORED.

Commerce Committee Orders Measure Reported To House.

Washington.—Favorable report was ordered by the House Commerce Committee on the Winslow bill amending the Transportation act to permit railroads and the American Railway Express Company to obtain partial payments from the Government on amounts due them under the guarantee provisions of the act.

DRY SLEUTHING RISKIER THAN WAR

Wheeler Asks Committee For Increased Pay For Agents

REINS ON SALES TIGHTENED

Many Arrests In Jersey Raid—Campaign Started Upon Sale Of "Tonics"—Would Insure Legal Sales.

Washington.—The Senate Appropriations Committee was told that it is more dangerous to be in the prohibition enforcement service than it was to be an American soldier on the fields of France in the recent war.

Wayne B. Wheeler general counsel of the Antisaloon League, appeared before the committee in support of larger appropriations for prohibition enforcement. Specifically he asked for enough money to pay field agents larger salaries than $1,500 a year and insisted that the full amount of $7,500,000 asked by Commissioner Kramer should be allowed. The House allowed $7,100,000, which was increased over $6,500,000, originally recommended by its appropriations committee.

Steps to insure the legality of sales of intoxicating liquor from bonded warehouses were taken by Commissioner of Internal Revenue Williams, who issued regulations requiring warehouse proprietors and customs officers to confirm the authenticity of permits to purchase before making shipments. The new rule directs reference of such permits to the Federal prohibition director, purporting to have approved them for confirmation.

Shipments of un-tax-paid distilled spirits or wines in bond from one bonded warehouse to another, however, will not require such evidence of authenticity.

Starts Campaign On "Tonics."

Thomas E. Stone, Supervising Prohibition Director for Maryland, Ohio, West Virginia and the District of Columbia, is after alleged "tonics" reported being sold for beverage purposes. Mr. Stone was in conference with Commissioner Williams, of the Prohibition Bureau, Washington, and submitted a long list of "remedies" that, for reason of their alcoholic content and because they are being sold promiscuously in soft-drink establishments, have been placed under ban.

Major Harry Guessford, chief of police of Washington, has given orders, it was stated, to confiscate all concoctions used as beverages found on sale there. Mr. Stone said that he had not asked the local police department to co-operate in the same manner, nor would this be done until samples purchased here had been analyzed. He said he knew of no Baltimore concerns that are manufacturing the stuff, but that there was considerable of it on the local market.

5,500 MAY BE CONFIRMED.

Senate Committee Approves Action On Appointments To Army.

Washington.—The Senate Military Committee voted to recommend confirmation by the Senate of "original" appointments of about 5,500 junior army officers, whose nominations were referred to the committee recently after a tilt in the Senate over the blocking of all of President Wilson's nominations. Those approved by the committee involve no promotions but only appointments to the positions created by the army reorganization act.

NOTE SENT TO MEXICO BY U. S.

Encroachment Upon Oil Rights Of Americans Protested.

Washington.—The State Department has sent an emphatic note to Mexico protesting against encroachment upon the rights of American oil producers. Mexicans are alleged to have taken advantage of a denouncement system, put into effect in Mexico when claims are contested, to take American oil claims and reap profits from them, it was learned, and it is this practice which the State Department has protested against.

COLONEL ELISHA THEALL DEAD.

Marine Corps Officer Highly Praised By Daniels.

Washington. — Col. Elisha Theall, United States Marine Corps, described by Secretary Daniels as one of the most capable and efficient officers in the service, died at the Naval Hospital here from complications resulting from an automobile accident a year ago.

HARDING BUYS FEW CLOTHES.

President-Elect's Tailor Talks To Kiwanis Club.

Chicago.—"Warren G. Harding buys just as few clothes as he can, and would be more economical if his position permitted," said Paul Gettum, of Toledo, Harding's tailor, in an address at the Kiwanis Club luncheon. "Our President-elect is a Kiwainian, too," concluded Tailor Gettum.

COURT REVERSES ITSELF.

Virginia State Supreme Judges In Peculiar Position.

Richmond, Va.—The State Supreme Court found its entire membership disqualified to sit in a case involved in consolidation of two local clubs. All the justices were members of one or both of the organizations. Before the order for substitute judges was entered, however, on application of counsel for both sides, the court reversed itself and took up the case.

SHORT CUTS IN STATE NEWS

The Latest News From All Over the State

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

Lynchburg. — The State Sunday School Association has representatives here arranging for a meeting to be held February 6 for the reorganization of the city Sunday School Association.

Fredericksburg.—Treasurer W. D. Reamy, of Stafford county, filled his ice house during the recent cold snap, with ice averaging four and one-half inches thick. His pond was in a shaded spot.

Lynchburg.—The local Kiwanis Club will consider a proposition made by the Roanoke Kiwanis Club to offer a money prize to the high schools of Lynchburg and Roanoke for the best composition on the Federal Constitution.

Winchester.—The wife of a Stephens City farmer picked pears from a tree in their yards a few days ago and canned them. The pears had been hanging on the tree during the winter and were uninjured by frost. They constituted a second crop in one season.

Newport News.—The Central Labor Union of this city has gone on record as opposing the proposed ordinance requiring all persons moving household effects to obtain a permit from the police. The union men say that such a provision is not needed in this city.

Charlottesville.—R. C. Vandegrift, Confederate veteran and retired architect, died Sunday one hour after attaining his eighty-ninth birthday. Before sustaining a second stroke of paralysis last week, he expressed a desire to be spared until his birthday anniversary.

Petersburg. — City Treasurer F. Gerald Stratton announced his candidacy for re-election in the August primary, making the number of candidates for the office now stand at two, Wilson B. Cole, young business man, having announced he would enter the race.

Charlottesville.—Following a largely attended mass-meeting at the courthouse, called to consider the matter of the enforcement of the eighteenth amendment and the Volstead law adopted by Congress to put the same into effect, a law and order league is being formed in the city and county.

Saluda.—Walter J. Parker, county treasurer of Essex county, died suddenly while fishing on Croxton's mill pond. He and his son, John, went out fishing. The son went ashore and when he came back later found his father had come ashore and fallen into the water beside the boat. Mr. Parker was 52 years of age.

Williamsburg.—The Peninsula Farm Bureau with fifty-five members, perfected a permanent organization at Norge by the election of C. C. Crockett, president; W. C. Jenson, secretary, and R. P. Cocke, treasurer. The board of directors is composed of W. H. Porter, of Teano; T. E. Fenne, of York county, and E. M. Slauson, of Jamestown.

Petersburg.—John L. Vaughan, of this city, was re-elected president of the Petersburg, Hopewell and City Point Electric Railway at a meeting of the stockholders here. The board of directors was re-elected, as were the other officers, as follows: M. A. Finn, vice-president; Richard Eppes, second vice-president; S. C. Snead, secretary and treasurer; S. W. Zimmer, general counsel; J. A. Baird, general manager.

Roanoke.—Pleading guilty to involuntary manslaughter, Chester Fleck, prominent young business man, was sentenced by Judge Woodrum in Corporation Court to pay a fine of $250 and serve sixty days in jail. Fleck was indicted recently in connection with the death of Mrs. D. L. Davis, who was run down and killed December 27, last, by an automobile driven by Fleck.

Bristol.—Rolling H. Handy, chairman of the University of Virginia Centennial Endowment Fund drive in Southwest Virginia, has appointed the following chairmen for nine southwest Virginia counties: P. T. Fugate, Scott; J. E. Duff, Russell; B. W. Stras, Jr., Tazewell; S. B. Campbell, Wythe; R. M. Bell, Washington; R. T. Irvine, Wise; W. N. Neff, Smythe, and L. M. Robinett and W. L. Davidson, Lee. It is announced that the actual fund drive will be launched on March 7. The goal has been set at $3,000,000 in the nation-wide campaign.

Charlottesville.—Paxton H. Howard, of Tulsa, Okla., and J. H. Lavenstein, of Norfolk, Va., have been selected to represent the University of Virginia in the intercollegiate debate with Cornell, to be held at the University of Pennsylvania on February 25th. L. W. Douglas, of Ballston, Va., and W. K. Koontz, of Roanoke, Va., were chosen as alternates. The judges were Profs. Bals, Wilson and Faulkner. The subject debated was: Resolved, That the writ of injunction should not be used in labor disputes.

Tax Laws Upheld.

Under the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of the trustees of the estate of the late Congressman John F. Rixey against the Commonwealth, which came to the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia from Culpeper Circuit Court, and thence to the Federal Court, the validity of the Virginia tax laws are upheld.

When Congressman Rixey died he left a considerable estate, and the examiner of records made an inquiry, claiming that the estate owed taxes to the State and county of about $10,000 from 1907, to the time of the institution of the litigation, about six years ago. The State will receive about $4,000 of this amount, the county of Culpeper about $6,000. The verdict of the Supreme Court of the United States carries with it the interest and penalties for failure to settle as required by law, and this will be added for all the years intervening since the proceedings were begun.

STATE CAPITAL

Commissioner Koiner's Report.

Richmond.—Ten per cent. of the total value of crops raised in Virginia last year was put back into the soil in fertilizers, according to the annual report of Commissioner of Agriculture George W. Koiner, submitted to Governor Westmoreland Davis. The tonnage tax collected by the State shows that farmers purchased $24,000,000 worth of fertilizer during the year, or 494,201 tons in all.

Ten fertilizer inspectors were employed by the department during the year, and a great extension in the work of the department is shown in the report. Extra precautions were taken to protect the farmer against low-grade and adultered mixtures of commercial fertilizers. In all, the inspectors of the department covered 79,577 miles and visited 5,080 cities and towns. An increase of 2,169 inspectors and 25,507 tons inspected was made, the report shows.

Penalties of $23,905.08 were assessed and $18,944 was paid back to farmers who bought goods from which deficient samples were procured and $6,960.87 paid into the treasury. Thirteen seizures for failure to live up to the law in regard to agricultural lime were made and seven penalties, totaling $366.37, assessed and paid.

Tabulated statement of the division of botany and seed testing shows inspection of 2,169 seed merchants, compared with 2,109 in 1919.

Attention is called to the total damage done by plant pests in this country, of which Virginia farmers stand their quota—losses which might have been prevented if known control measures had been immediately applied. The use of certified seed as to its freedom from diseases or insects and seed tested for the presence of impurities, as well as for germinating qualities, is urged. Greater activity in this work in other States is cited, the State of Washington appropriating $50,000 for this work.

Report of the market division reveals a great awakening among farmers to necessity of improving present market conditions. Efforts of the division in prompting commodity organizations are reported fruitful. Investigation work in market conditions of different crops in conjunction with the United States Bureau of Markets, demonstration and extension work in grading wool and grain by expert graders from the Federal bureau, co-operative shipments of live stock, formation of pools, particularly in wool industry (wool pools reported in seventeen counties), general service work through meetings in interest of organization co-operation with extension work demonstrators, publicity to sales of live stock and other commodities through the "for-sale" list in monthly bulletin of the department, are activities reported by this division. The great need of sufficient funds to advance movements so essential to this vital subject is urged.

To Have Decisions Printed.

Following the example of New York and Pennsylvania, Virginia is to have a regular issue of the decisions of its Industrial Commission. Since there are in the State between 5,000 and 6,000 employers affected by the rulings and about 250,000 employes, those advance reports are likely to prove popular.

Chairman C. A. McHugh has made an arrangement with the publishers of the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals reports, and the commission's decisions will be issued semi-monthly.

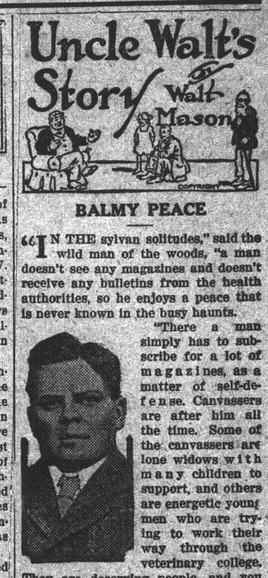
These periodic publications are not intended to take the place of the annual publication, which has been in contemplation since the commission was formed. The report for the first year, including all decisions of that period, will be issued as soon as proof sheets can be revised; and it is hoped that before the end of the current year all back decisions will have been printed. Thereafter, the annual report book will be kept up to date.

Western Union Would Abandon Maximum Rate.

The Western Union Telegraph Company will go before the State Corporation Commission in a few days and ask for the abolition of the maximum State rate of 30 cents on messages within the State, it was learned.

Several days ago a number of national officials of the company were in Richmond, and, in company with William G. Sale, district commercial superintendent, called at the Capitol and outlined their plans, which call for basing their rates in Virginia on the system of "squares," by which parcel post rates are computed.

Newport News.—Cost of living was 12½ per cent. lower here the first two weeks of January than it was at the same time last year, according to figures compiled by the newspapers. It cost a family of five more than $1,800 to live last year, whereas it will cost only slightly more than $1,500 for them this year at the present rate. Food and clothing showed a drop, house rent remains the same, lights, water and gas increased, as did street car fares



Uncle Walt's Story

By Walt Mason

BALMY PEACE

"IN THE sylvan solitudes," said the wild man of the woods, "a man doesn't see any magazines and doesn't receive any bulletins from the health authorities, so he enjoys a peace that is never known in the busy haunts.

"There a man simply has to subscribe for a lot of magazines, as a matter of self-defense. Canvassers are after him all the time. Some of the canvassers are lone widows with many children to support, and others are energetic young men who are trying to work their way through the veterinary college. They are deserving people, and you feel it a duty to help them along, so the first thing you know your mail box is jammed full of literature. Having paid for it, you feel that you ought to read it, and your life is ruined thereby.

"When I was young, the magazines tried to entertain people. They had good stories and a Poet's Corner, and a department devoted to timely jokes, and another to household hints and domestic recipes. There was some sense in reading a magazine then, for it soothed and sustained you. But nowadays the magazine editors consider it their duty to harrow your soul and make your hair stand on end like quills upon the porkful fretcupine, or words to that effect. They are always viewing with alarm, and trying to convince you that you take your life in your hand every five minutes.

"They have a lot of health specialists writing for them, and these health sharps point out that pretty near everything you eat and drink is a deadly poison. They didn't scare me to any great extent, for I am a most intrepid man, but they soon had my wife so rattled she didn't know whether she was going or coming.

"I always was passionately fond of a good cup of coffee, and my wife could make the best coffee, you ever heard of. She went to work at it like a learned apothecary compounding a prescription. There was no guess work about it. She took an honest pride in it, and her coffee was a revelation to every consumer. I used to lie awake at night wishing it was breakfast time, so I could have my morning cup of coffee.

"But one morning when I went to the table the coffee was missing. In its place there was a sickly beverage I had never seen before. I asked an explanation, and my wife said that no more coffee would be made in our house. 'The wonder is,' said she, 'that we still live and move and have our being, for coffee is a rank poison. If you read Dr. Zinkfoogle's article in the Junkopolitan Magazine, you will see that coffee contains a large percentage of tannin, which is so deadly that if you place a drop on the tongue of an alligator, it will roll over, dead.'

"I told her that I had no alligators on the premises, and consequently could not try the experiment, but I assured her that I didn't care anything about the poison. I wanted my coffee at regular hours. She said I'd have to keep on wanting. She thought too much of me to send me to an untimely grave. And, anyhow, she explained Dr. Zinkfoogle had told how to make a substitute for coffee that was perfectly wholesome. She had followed his instructions, and the result was before me. Perhaps it didn't taste as good as coffee, but it was wholesome. It would fill my veins with red corpuscles and restore hair to my bald head. It was made of marrowfat peas which had been carefully roasted in a hot oven.

"In order to get a cup of coffee after that, I had to make a sneak to the chop house, and the kind dished up there made me old before my time. My wife cut out all my favorite dishes because Dr. Zinkfoogle or some other magazine writer denounced them, and finally I was living on roasted peas coffee and boiled spinach, and I concluded that if I had to feed like the cows I'd live like them, so I came to the forest fastnesses."

"Marriage Breaker" Busy.

One of the deplorable results of bolshevik misrule in Russia is the installing of a "breaker of marriages" in Petrograd, who is said to be granting more than 500 divorces a week. No investigation is necessary, the only requirement being the signature of the person desiring freedom from marriage.

A Helpful Hint.

"Ar-r-r-r!" growled a hypercritical customer in the rapid fire restaurant. "This confounded piece of meat is so tough I can hardly eat it!"

"Get it down on the floor where you can put your foot on it when you gnaw it," briskly returned Heloise, the waitress."—Kansas City Star.

The Difference.

"A good housewife is very different from a good husbandman."

"How so?"

"She is always sewing tears."

Getting Acquainted.

Alma and Jennie had come from different towns, that were visiting Myra, our four-year-old. The children were strangers to each other and rather slow at becoming acquainted. Myra was heard saying, "Alma, meet Jennie; Jennie, meet Alma; now bow and let's play hard."

Always a Sunny Side.

The toughest thing in all this world has its sunny side. There is joy in a stubbed toe when it stops aching. It feels so good!